



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

**January 27, 2025
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Zoom**

Participants: Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs, Co-Chair Patty Shreves, Bill Valentine, Bob Zimmeroff, Scott Warner, Matthew Teffeau, Amy Keller, Chudi Obi, Gregory Padgham, Charlene Sharpe, Janice Palmer, Bill Christopher, Josh Bollinger, Stacy Kubofcik, John Hartline, Paul Ellington, Susan O'Neill, Rachel Jones, Susanne Richards, Josh Hastings, Steve McHenry, Nancy Nunn, Andrew Casilly, Joe Hinson, Beth Hill, Jianning Zeng, William Reid, Alice Settle-Raskin, Susan Harrison

RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs welcomed committee members and initiated the meeting at 2:03 pm. The committee reviewed the minutes of the January 6, 2025, meeting. Bill Valentine motioned to approve the minutes; Bob Zimmeroff seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The committee reviewed [Fiscal Briefing Materials](#), and discussed cuts in the FY2026 budget. For FY2026, RMC has been reduced to \$6 million; MAERDAF has been reduced to \$118,485; the Regional Councils have been \$200,000 each; SMADC has been reduced to \$750,000; and MARBIDCO has been reduced to - \$300,000. RMC is scheduled to attend the Senate Budget Hearing on 2/13, and the House Budget Hearing on 2/17.

The committee reviewed legislation, and deliberated on their stances regarding the following bills:

- SB216/HB19 - Health Occupations - Nursing - Loan Repayment, Education, and Sunset Extension (Building Opportunities for Nurses Act of 2025) – *Rec: Support; RMC Position: Support*
- HB341/SB344 - Property Tax Credit - Retail Service Station Conversions – *Rec: Support; RMC Position: Support*
- SB372 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025 – *Rec: Support; RMC Position: Support*
- HB131/SB117 - Environment - Bay Restoration Fund - Septic System Upgrade Program – *Rec: Support; RMC Position: Support*
- HB397/SB363 - Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation - Oyster Shucking House Loan Program – *Rec: Support; RMC Position: Support*
- HB496 - Income Tax - Credits for Nursing Program Preceptors in Areas with Health Care Workforce Shortages – Alterations – *Rec: Support; RMC Position: Support*

The committee also reviewed the following:

- SB20/HB432 - Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding - Inflation Adjustment (Local Transit Sustainability Act) – *Rec: Monitor*
- SB266/HB286 - Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy - Planning Principles – *RMC Meeting with Secretary Flora 1/29*
- HB43 - Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program - Acquisition of Land – *Rec: Monitor or Drop*
- HB9 - Public Safety - Food System Resiliency Council - Definitions and Reports – *Rec: Monitor*

- SB423 - Maryland Medical Practice Act and Maryland Physician Assistants Act – Revisions – *Rec: Health Committee Review*
- HB342 - State Transfer Tax - Rates and Distribution of Revenue – *Rec: Monitor*
- SB401/HB517 - Transportation - Maryland Area Rail Commuter Rail Authority - Establishment (MARC Rail Authority Act of 2025) – *Rec: Monitor*
- SB409/HB97 - Economic Development - County or Municipal Corporation Economic Development Authority - Powers and Use of Proceeds – *Rec: Monitor*
- SB460/HB461 - Sales and Use Tax - Cut Flowers – Exemption – *Rec: Monitor*
- HB262/SB240 - Department of Agriculture - Maryland Agricultural Commission and Young Farmers – *Rec: Monitor*
- HB104/SB226 - Maryland Farms and Families Fund – Purpose and Use – Alterations – *Rec: Monitor*
- HB140/SB176 - Agriculture - Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan - Uses of Information – *Rec: Monitor*
- HB24 - Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility – *Rec: Monitor*
- SB353 - Food Deserts Workgroup – Establishment – *Rec: Monitor*
- SB428/HB506 - Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act – *Rec: Monitor*
- HB471 - Agricultural Land and Programs - Scrutinized Entities – *Rec: Monitor*

Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs opened the discussion and invited committee members to propose additional bills for the benefit of the group. Committee members discussed the following:

- HB0650/SB0563 - Maryland Fair and Ag Education Promise Fund - Establishment (Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Act)
- HB 503/SB0430 - Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and Fund - Establishment

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, discussed Rural Maryland Day, February 13, 2025. The event will feature scheduled legislative appointments focusing on five major categories: Agricultural, Community Development, Economic Development, Health, and the Maryland Digital Equity Coalition.

Moreover, the committee reviewed upcoming legislative events. This includes: State of Ag, January 28; State of the Bay, January 29; Department of Planning Budget Hearing and Chesapeake Bay Overview, January 31; Southern Maryland Delegation, February 7; Legislative Luncheon, February 26; and Maryland Day, March 25.

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet next on Monday, February 10, 2025, 2:00 to 3:00 pm, via Zoom teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.